

Population and urbanization

Course:

Sociology

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Definition of Terms

- Population
- Population refers to the entire group of individuals, objects, or events that share a common characteristic or set of characteristics of interest to researchers. This can include people, animals, plants, or even inanimate objects.

- Demography

Demography is the study of human populations, including their size, composition, distribution, and characteristics, such as age, gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.

- Urbanization

Urbanization refers to the process by which an increasing proportion of a country's population moves from rural areas to urban areas, leading to the growth of urban centers or cities

Fertility: This refers to the ability of an individual or organism to produce offspring or to conceive a child. In humans, fertility is usually defined as the ability of a woman to become pregnant and give birth to a healthy child. In men, fertility is related to the quality and quantity of their sperm, which can affect their ability to father a child.

- Mortality: Mortality refers to the state or condition of being dead. It is the measure of the number of deaths in a particular population over a certain period of time.
- Migration Migration refers to the movement of people from one place to another, often for the purpose of settling in a new location. Migration can be voluntary or forced, and can occur within a country (internal migration) or between countries (international migration).

History of Human Population

- The history of human population is a vast and complex topic that spans millions of years. Here are some key points and milestones in the history of human population. Early human ancestors, such as *Australopithecus*, emerged in Africa around 4-5 million years ago. The first members of the genus *Homo*, including *Homo habilis* and *Homo erectus*, appeared around 2-3 million years ago. *Homo sapiens*, the species to which modern humans belong, evolved in Africa around 300,000 years ago.

- The Neolithic Revolution, which began around 10,000 BCE, marked a major turning point in human history, as humans transitioned from hunting and gathering to farming and settled communities. The global population is estimated to have reached 1 billion people in 1804, and 2 billion in 1927. The 20th century saw a rapid increase in human population, with the world population reaching 3 billion in 1960, 4 billion in 1974, 5 billion in 1987, 6 billion in 1999, and 7 billion in 2011. As of 2021, the world population is estimated to be around 7.9 billion people.

Statistics of World Population

- Asia - 4.68 billion, Africa - 1.37 billion, Europe - 747 million, North America - 590 million, South America - 430 million, Oceania - 42 million , Antarctica - 0 (no permanent population)
- Note: Male - 3.9 billion, Female - 3.8 billion, Other/Non-Binary - approximately 25 million. Most populated country in the world is China with a population of 1.45billion people. Followed by India with a population of 1.4billion people. The least populated country is Vatican with a population of 800 people which are clergy men and religious officials.

- Three Key Population/Demographic Variables are:
- Fertility
- Mortality
- Migration

Demographic Dynamics

- Demographic dynamics refer to the changes and trends in population characteristics such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, and geographical location. These changes can occur due to a variety of factors, including birth rates, death rates, migration patterns, and social and economic factors. Some of the key demographic trends that have emerged in recent years include aging populations in many developed countries, increasing diversity and multiculturalism in many societies, and significant urbanization as people move from rural areas to cities.

Population Explosion

- Population explosion refers to the rapid increase in the world's human population over the last few centuries, particularly since the Industrial Revolution. It is caused by a combination of factors such as advancements in medical technology, improvements in sanitation and hygiene, and increased access to food and resources.

Reasons For Studying Population Growth

- Policy and planning for the future
- Understanding population growth and its effects
- Identifying social and economic trends
- Assessing human resources
- For sustainable development

Theories of Population

- Malthusian Theory: This theory was proposed by Thomas Malthus in the late 18th century. He argued that population growth will inevitably lead to a shortage of resources, as the population will grow at an exponential rate while resources will only increase at a linear rate. Malthus predicted that this would lead to famine, disease, and other forms of social unrest, which would ultimately limit population growth.

- Demographic Transition Theory: This theory describes how population growth rates change over time as countries go through economic and social development. The theory suggests that as a country moves from a traditional agrarian economy to a modern industrial economy, birth rates initially remain high while death rates decline. This creates a period of rapid population growth. Eventually, however, birth rates begin to decline as the country becomes more urbanized and women gain access to education and family planning services.

- Marxist Theory: This theory, which is based on the ideas of Karl Marx, argues that population growth is a result of economic and political factors. According to this theory, capitalist societies require a constant supply of new workers to maintain their economic growth, and so they encourage high birth rates through policies such as tax breaks for families with children. Marxists also argue that population growth is driven by poverty and inequality, as poor families tend to have more children as a way of ensuring that they have enough labor to support themselves.

Urbanization

- Urbanization is the process by which people move from rural to urban areas, resulting in the growth of cities and towns. This process has been occurring for centuries, but it has accelerated dramatically in recent decades due to various factors such as industrialization, economic development, and globalization. This lecture note will explore the causes, consequences, and challenges of urbanization.

Causes of Urbanization

- **Industrialization:** The growth of industries in urban areas led to the creation of job opportunities, which attracted people from rural areas to move to the cities in search of work
- **Economic Development:** As economies grow, the demand for labor increases, and people move to cities to take advantage of job opportunities, better living standards, and improved infrastructure
- **Globalization:** Globalization has led to the growth of cities as centers of trade, commerce, and finance, attracting people from different parts of the world to urban areas.

Consequences of Urbanization

- **Economic Growth:** Urbanization is often accompanied by economic growth as cities become centers of production, trade, and innovation
- **Improved Living Standards:** Urban areas tend to have better access to education, healthcare, and other public services, leading to improved living standards for people living in cities
- **Environmental Degradation:** Urbanization can lead to environmental problems such as pollution, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity
- **Social and Cultural Changes:** Urbanization can lead to the breakdown of traditional social and cultural values and practices, as people are exposed to new ways of life in the city.

Challenges of Urbanization

- Overcrowding: Urban areas can become overcrowded, leading to congestion, strain on infrastructure, and social problems
- Housing: Rapid urbanization can lead to a shortage of affordable housing, forcing people to live in slums and informal settlements
- Infrastructure: As urban areas grow, there is a need for investment in infrastructure such as transport, water, and sanitation
- Poverty and Inequality: Urbanization can exacerbate poverty and inequality as the benefits of economic growth are not evenly distributed.

Suburban

- Suburban refers to an area that is located on the outskirts of a city or urban area, typically characterized by lower population density and a more residential, family-oriented environment. Suburban areas often have larger homes and yards than their urban counterparts, and are typically home to more affluent families who prefer the quieter, more peaceful lifestyle that the suburbs offer. Many suburban areas also have a range of amenities such as shopping centers, parks, and community centers that are designed to meet the needs of families and provide a sense of community.

Exurban

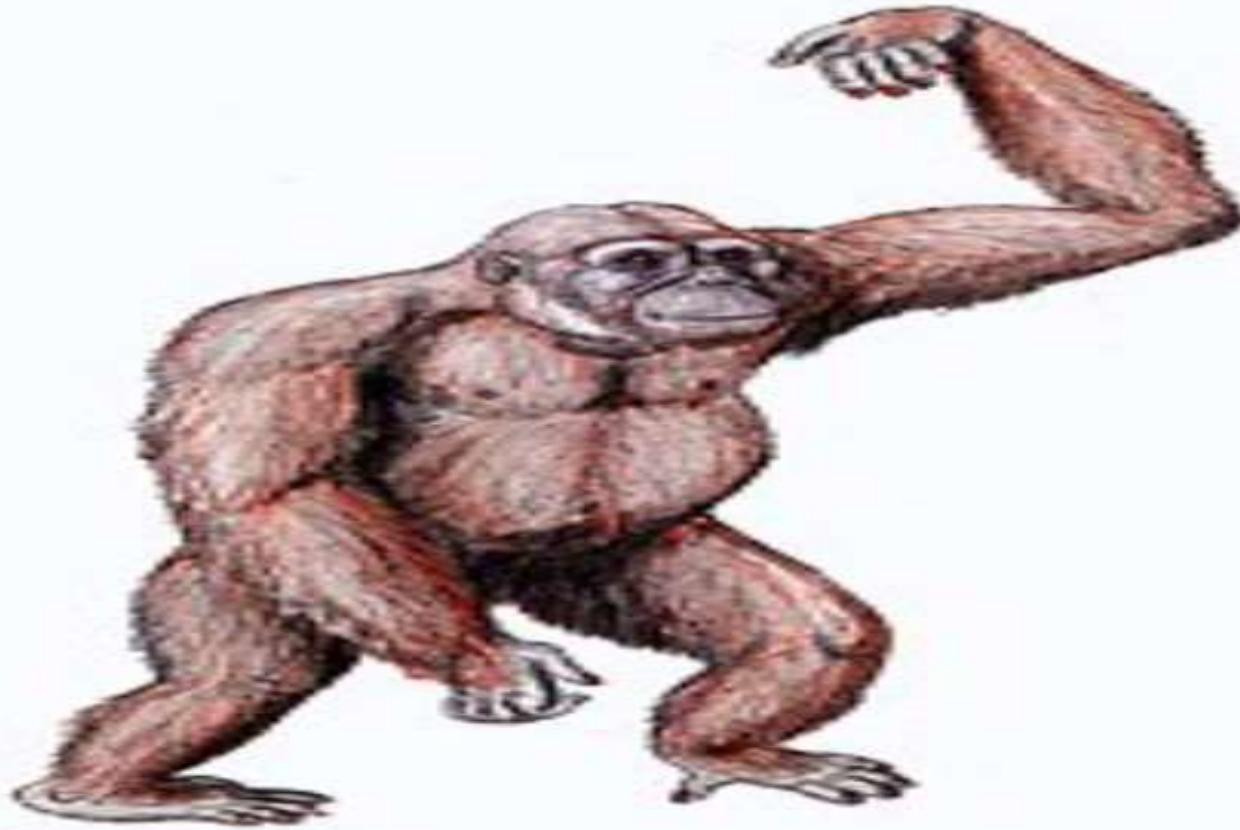
- Exurban refers to areas that lie beyond the suburbs of a metropolitan area but are still within commuting distance of the city. These areas are typically characterized by a lower population density and a more rural or semi-rural environment. Exurban development is often associated with the expansion of suburbs and urban areas, as people seek to live in quieter, more natural surroundings while still maintaining access to urban amenities and job opportunities. Exurban areas may also be popular for recreational activities such as hiking, fishing, and hunting. However, the development of exurban areas can also have environmental and social impacts, such as increased traffic, loss of natural environment etc.

Characteristics of Urban Area

- High population density: Urban areas are densely populated, with a large number of people living in a relatively small area
- Heterogeneity: Urban areas are often characterized by a high level of diversity in terms of demographics, culture, and socioeconomic status
- High-rise buildings: Urban areas typically feature tall buildings, including skyscrapers, apartment buildings, and office towers
- Infrastructure: Urban areas are well-developed in terms of infrastructure, with facilities such as public transportation, water supply, sewage systems, and electricity.
- Economic activity: Urban areas are centers of economic activity, with a high concentration of businesses, industries, and services
- Socialization: Urban areas offer opportunities for social interaction and networking, with a variety of cultural events, entertainment options, and social activities.

Sociological and Anthropological Perspective on First Human Population

Dryopithecus. This is the first relation of mankind. It later evolved to Ramapithecus.



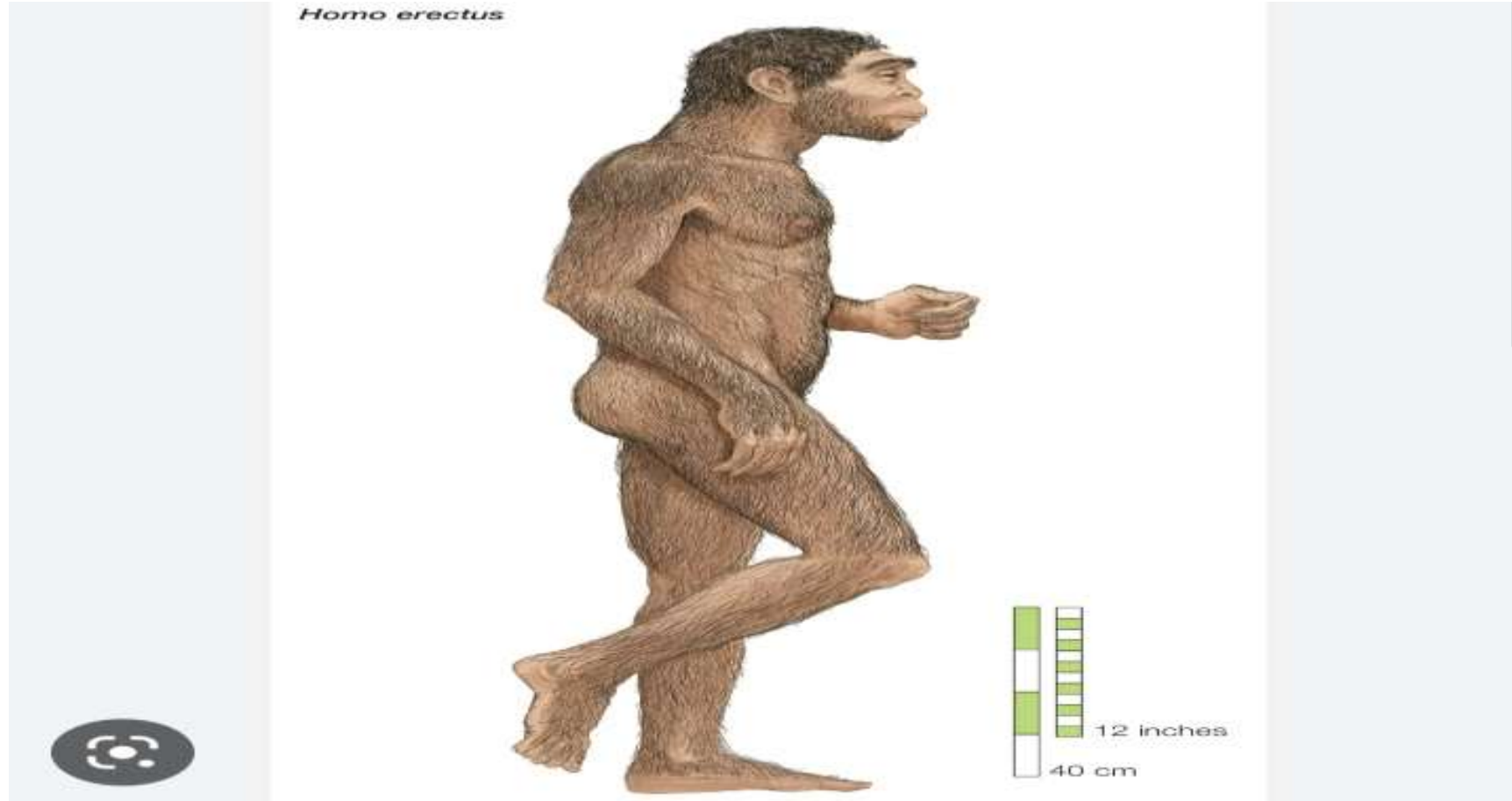
Ramapithecus: This is believed to have evolved into Australopithecus.



Australopithecus: This is the first authentic relation of man and evolved over 4-5 million years ago. It later evolved to Homo erectus.



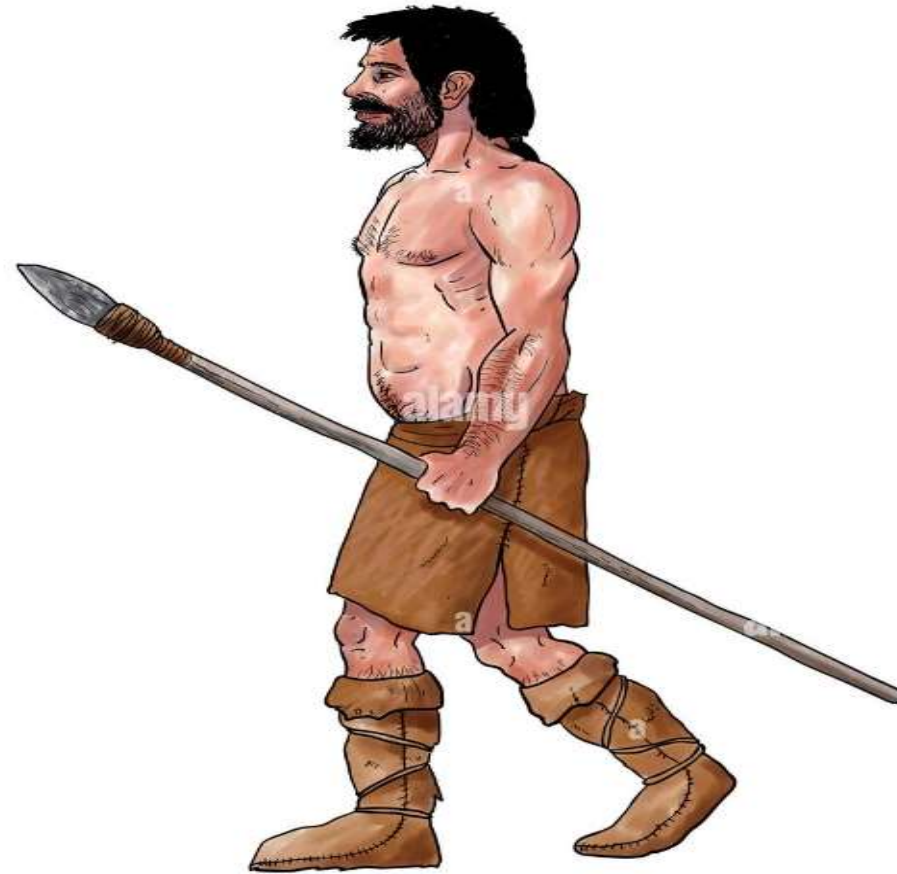
Homo erectus. This is the first of the kind of human to completely stand erect. It later evolved into homo sapiens



Homo Sapiens: This is the immediate nature of mankind before the present times.



Homo Sapiens Sapiens: This is the modern man as we know it.



Reasons for Evolution of primates to Mankind

- Genetic Mutation
- Natural Selection
- Chromosome abnormalities
- **Genetic Recombination**
- **Reproductive Isolation**

Further Readings

- Urban Sociology: An Introduction" by Ronan Paddison
- Population Geography" by Stephen A. Matthews and Edward J. F. M. Bloem